

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3488

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2684

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, VS, CB

SUBJECT: GKR/GVN TALKS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF

REF: SAIGON 2314

1. GENERAL MANAGER OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AGENCY TRAN VAN KHOI INFORMED EMBOFF THAT NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED DURING TALKS AT TECHNIC AL LEVEL. AS STARTING POINT CAMBODIANS SUGGESTED LINE DRAWN FROM MAIN-LAND THROUGH MIDDLE OF HON PAJANG ISLANDS, PHU QUOC ISLAND BEING LEFT ENTIRELY ON CAMBODIAN SIDE. BY A PROCESS OF GRADUALLY RETREATING FROM THIS POSITION CAMBODIANS HAD HOPED TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONS FROM GVN DELEGATION. LATTER REFUSED TO COOPERATE AND INSTEAD QUESTIONED WHAT PRINCIPLE CAMBODIANS HAD USED IN DRAWING LINE. TALKS DID NOT ADVANCE BEYOND THIS STAGE DURING FOUR MORNING SESSIONS BETWEEN MARCH 4 AND 7. CAMBODIANS DID, HOWEVER, AGREE TO RECOMMEND TO THEIR GOVERNMENT THAT GVN BE GIVEN SEISMIC DATA OF DISPUTED AREA AND INFORMATION ON TWO WELLS DRILLED BY ELF-ERAP.

2. TALKS WERE CONDUCTED IN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. GVN DELEGATES WERE SYMPATHEITC TO CAMBODIANS WHOSE LOW MORALE BETRAYED THEIR CONCERN OVER FATE OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. KHOI FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY GKR HAD DECIDED TO HOLD THESE TALKS AT THIS TIME. LEHMANN

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